

as an innovative, livable and exciting mixed use neighborhood while preserving its historic and creative character. The neighborhood has emerged with vibrant agencies, businesses, restaurants and entertainment venues including: The Broadway Theatre Center with its spectacular Cabot Theatre draws audiences into the ward at night, many fine restaurants bringing a contemporary vibe and flair to the neighborhood, a Congressional District Office, and the annual Third Ward Art Festival has joined the roster of Milwaukee's outdoor events. However, the construction of the Milwaukee Public Market has been the pivotal point in guaranteeing the Third Ward's sustained viability, as well as, a new hotel, the Journeyman. However, the HTWA does not want to rest on its laurels, Nancy would like to see more public space, more people getting off the streetcar and shopping and dining in restaurants, as well as, a grocery store and a drug store in the Third Ward.

Nancy O'Keefe is responsible for the many social events which are staples of the downtown culture and brought many visitors to the Third Ward including: Summer Sizzles, Christmas in the Third Ward, Gallery Nights, World's Largest Coffee Break, Shortest & Smallest St. Patrick's Day Parades, Sculptures on Ice Competitions, and Small Business Saturdays. She has also served on numerous boards including: Architectural Review Board, Friends of Lakeshore State Park, and Downtown Neighborhood Association.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Nancy O'Keefe. In fact my Congressional District Office is sited in the Third Ward. I have had the privilege of joining with Nancy and other dignitaries to promote Small Business Saturday and other events in the Third Ward. I join with friends in congratulating her on her retirement. I wish her much success as she transitions into a different phase of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Nancy O'Keefe and celebrate her outstanding leadership. Nancy O'Keefe has overseen the Third Ward's transformation from a district with growing potential into an urban success story. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of her ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Nancy O'Keefe.

COMMEMORATING FRANK
ABDNOUR, OWNER OF THE SPOT-
TED COW

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Frank Abdnour of Peoria, Illinois on his retirement as owner of The Spotted Cow, an iconic restaurant in my hometown.

Mr. Abdnour first opened the Spotted Cow in the early 1980's as an ice cream push-cart on the Bradley University campus. During this time, Frank became a fixture of campus life and a favorite of students in need of a frozen treat in between classes. In 1987, fueled by the American entrepreneurial spirit, Frank successfully opened a brick-and-mortar ice cream

store in Peoria Heights. Nineteen years later, Frank pursued his dream of turning the Spotted Cow into a full service restaurant at the corner of Sheridan and Glen, where it has become an institution in the Peoria community, serving the most delicious food and of course, ice cream.

The Spotted Cow is a landmark throughout Central Illinois, known for its Italian beef, burgers, salads, and, most importantly, ice cream. Frank's famous, one of a kind ice cream is made in-store with flavors that can only be found at the Spotted Cow.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Frank on a successful career as a Peoria icon, and I look forward to seeing his legacy carry on as The Spotted Cow continues to serve as a cornerstone of Peoria culture for years to come.

RECOGNIZING BELLA RUBIO FOR
HER 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED
PUBLIC SERVICE TO REAL COUN-
TY AND THE STATE OF TEXAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Bella Rubio for 20 years of dedicated public service to Real County and the State of Texas.

Bella currently serves as county and district clerk for Real County, the western-most county that I represent. She is retiring but her legacy will live on for years to come in the towns of Leakey and Camp Wood in Real County.

Bella has been a dear friend to me and my staff for two decades. She is well-respected in her community and has helped me greatly in serving Real County at the federal level. For anyone in Real County needing assistance with the government, Bella has been there for them. She is dedicated, persistent, and conscientious.

Apparently, Bella has inspired a spirit of public service in her son, Lucas, who is now interning in my San Antonio district office.

Congratulations to Bella Rubio on her retirement. Everyone who knows her appreciates her many contributions to Real County. She is a patriot, a leader, and a friend to all. And for all that she deserves our heartfelt thanks.

HONORING SHERIFF BRIAN
MARTIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff Brian Martin, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Lake County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A native of Lakeport, California, Sheriff Martin enlisted in the United States Army Military Police in 1992. While in the Army, Sheriff Martin was a paratrooper and was assigned to the Fort Bragg Military Police Special Reaction

Team as a team leader and sniper. Sheriff Martin then attended Modesto Junior College Police Academy in 1997 and joined the Pismo Beach Police Department where he was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and as an Officer of the Year. Sheriff Martin has since served as Deputy Sheriff, Sergeant and Lieutenant in the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Martin has served as Sheriff for Lake County and provided valuable leadership during times of crisis. During the devastating fire season of 2015, Sheriff Martin led the evacuation of 20,000 people in response to the historic Valley Fire, which burned over 70,000 acres and destroyed nearly 2,000 structures. His actions saved countless lives in Lake County.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sheriff Martin for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

TYBEE ISLAND VETERANS CIRCLE
OF FREEDOM MEMORIAL MONU-
MENT

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tybee Island Veterans Circle of Freedom Memorial Monument.

This monument is a tribute to all branches of the military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Merchant Marines, and Coast Guard.

It was built for all veterans that have previously served in the United States Armed Forces as well as those currently serving.

The Veterans Circle of Freedom Memorial Monument took several years to complete, with a committee dedicated to this project beginning their work in October 2006. Tybee Island donated a piece of property in Memorial Park, and the groundbreaking was done two years later, on December 7, 2009.

I am proud to represent a district whose citizens came together to build this memorial monument. Generous donations poured in from community members, fundraisers, and even brick sales. This speaks to the proud military tradition present on Tybee Island, and Georgia's First Congressional District, more broadly. The monument is a beautiful tribute to our servicemen, and I thank the city of Tybee Island for making it happen.

IN HONOR OF ANNA MARIE SMITH

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Anna Marie Smith, a woman of strength, character and commitment to her community. Ms. Smith has been a friend, mentor and volunteer to many individuals and for organizations throughout the City of Gloucester City and the surrounding community in southern New Jersey, including myself, and it only seems fitting that we honor someone on the floor of the House of Representatives who has dedicated herself to helping others.